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Restoration Advisory
Board
MCAS Cherry Point

Spring, 1999

Hotspots

"Yesterday's Pollution, Today's Solution"

A message from the Restoration Advisory Board

What was once considered a solution to a problem has now become a problem in today's world.

Before we begin to say that our forefathers' solutions to simple problems were bad, we must first stop and think to ourselves, "what would we have done?" Most of the solutions saved them money and cured other problems they had. At the time, they did not know about the residual effects that it had or the effects it would have on the environment. They did know what recycle meant.

Some examples of recycling were the use of discarded metal cans to patch roofs or other parts of a structure instead of buying more lumber to fix it; the use of sales catalogs and corn cobs in the outhouse; spreading used motor oil on the dirt roads to stop the dust and the use of animal fecal matter as a fertilizer. All of these were common practice, and in some places are still common recycling practices. However, with the industrial and specialization revolution this has changed drastically.

Both of these revolutions have lead to the current environmental problems facing us today. People started to migrate to areas that held industry. Indoor plumbing and septic tanks evolved. As families moved to the cities, the farmers that remained were forced to increase production to meet demand for food. People started having their automobiles repaired at garages and this was the start of more problems. Industries built up near

waterways for a number of economic reasons and this too has been the cause of many problems today.

The garage owner would dig pits out behind their building and dump the used oil and gas. Some people used metal drums or buried concrete tanks, but over time the tanks broke down or rusted away and the petroleum products leached into the ground. It was believed that fuels evaporated when contacted with air, however this was wrong because it leached into the ground and formed pools where eventually it would then move down to the aquifer.

Industries and cities thought the waterways that ran behind their areas could rid them of their waste. Again this was right to a point, however the waterways became congested with by products and things went haywire.

The farmers who picked up the slack had it made since they had room to get rid of the animal by-products that occur when producing milk or pork. As demand for one thing went up, so did the production of the other. As people in the late sixties decided they could live in the country and work in the city the problem came back to the farmer. He was accustomed to the odors that occurred, but the city people weren't and they complained without realizing that this was the person who fed them.

HOTSPOTS
The RAB
Commanding General
MCAS
PSC Box 8013
Cherry Point, NC 28533-0013



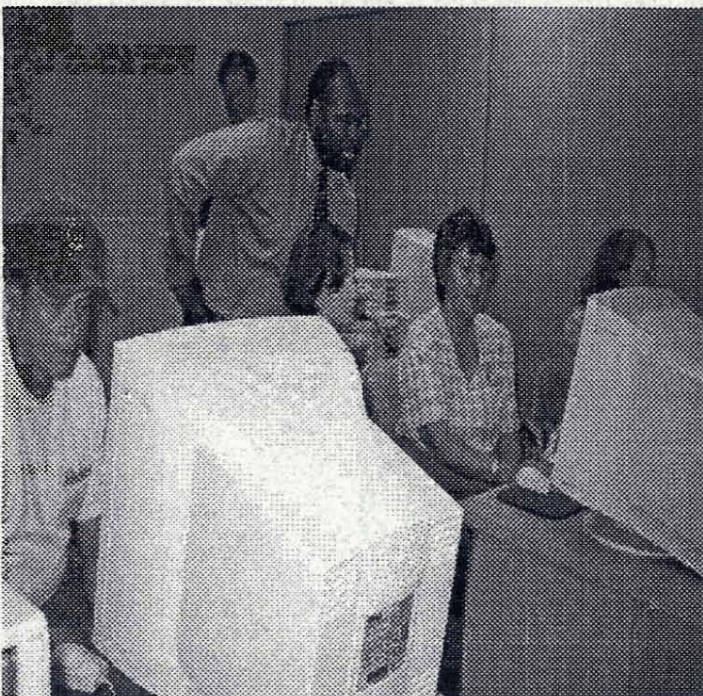
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When earth as we know it was created there was only so much land allotted to the project. Mother Nature knew she had to protect it. She grew plants and trees to produce oxygen and filter out pollution.

She put in creeks and rivers to flow away the rains and soil to filter out bad chemicals. However, man thought he could do better. As we built new houses draining swamps and trying to alter rivers courses, we have upset the balance that Mother Nature created.

Yes, we have some major environmental problems, but we are working on the solutions with technologies that were not thought of ten years ago. We didn't know we could use steam to pull the chemicals out of the ground. We didn't know we could burn the soil to take toxins out. We have come a long way in cleaning up the environment, but this is no short road. We must rely on new technology and Mother Nature, as they will lead us down the road.

Lew Mitchell
RAB Member



The RAB Learning to Use the Internet

September RAB Meeting

During the month of September the RAB members participated in a computer training course to assist them in obtaining and using information from the Internet and how they can use it to further their expertise in dealing with environmental issues.

The RAB members reviewed the MCAS Internet WEB and were shown information that will be available for their review at this site. The RAB members also shared their ideas for future information that can be included on this WEB site. The RAB and the public can assess and review the Administrative Record of MCAS and other documents concerning the environmental cleanup of the Air Station. The WEB site also provides links to other sites related to MCAS Cherry Point.

Next RAB Meeting

All RAB meetings are open to the public. The next RAB meeting will be June 17, 1999. For further information, please contact the MCAS Public Affairs Office Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m. at (919) 466-4241. Additional information on Cherry Point's Installation Restoration Program can be found on the worldwide web at: www.lantops-ir.org/cherrypoint/home.

Navy Environmental Security Award

MCAS Cherry Point was recently announced as the recipient of the 1998 Secretary of the Navy Environmental Security Award for environmental cleanup. This award recognizes the Air Station's Installation Restoration Program achievements in protecting human health and the environment by

remediating contaminated soil and groundwater from past disposal practices. The Air Station has realized a \$5.6 million cost avoidance by taking a creative approach to the execution of the cleanup program. Recent environmental cleanup successes include: 65,000 gallons of petroleum fuel recovered from the industrial area; a Longleaf Pine restoration area, and removal and treatment of 100 acres of groundwater.

New Cherry Point RAB Co-Chairperson

Rachel Johnson will be leaving MCAS Cherry Point in April. We want to wish Rachel well on her new endeavor.

Rachel will be replaced by Dale McFarland who comes to Cherry Point from a private consulting firm that specializes in site cleanup. He was initially assigned to the Air Station's Environmental Compliance Division and assumed responsibility for the Installation Restoration Program in January 1999.

We look forward to working with Dale and the new team in the future.

Welcome Aboard!!!

Information Repositories

Information has been placed in the following repositories for public review:

MCAS Library
Building 298, E Street
MCAS Cherry Point,
North Carolina 28532

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Building 298, E Street
MCAS Cherry Point,
North Carolina 28532

The MCAS Library is open Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 9:45 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Saturday 10:00 am to 4:45 p.m., Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., and can be contacted at (252) 466-3552.

Havelock-Craven County Public Library
300 Miller Boulevard
Havelock,
North Carolina 28532

The Havelock-Craven County Library is open Monday & Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.